

## **REMARKS**

### **Overview**

Claims 1-19 were previously canceled. Claim 21 is canceled herein.

Claims 20, 22-24, and 27 are amended herein.

### **Argument**

In the Office Action mailed November 1, 2005, the Examiner rejected pending Claims 20-25 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brown. The Examiner also rejected Claim 26 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, in view of a standard deck of playing cards. Applicants have canceled Claim 21 and amended Claims 20, 22-24 and 27 and provide the remarks below.

Brown discloses a deck of cards containing 52 cards, each one depicting one-quarter of a picture of an animal, a common letter of the alphabet, a common numeral, and an individual card suit symbol. Brown discloses that a second deck would be necessary to use each letter of the alphabet; however, there is no suggestion or teaching of combining the two decks to make a single 104 card deck. When four cards are correctly placed together a picture of an animal is formed. Brown does not teach or suggest a deck of playing cards containing an indication of location on the card, nor does Brown disclose a method of game play in which different values are assigned to the combinations of the cards. For example, a higher value is awarded if cards having the same quantity and suit are combined as opposed to cards having only the same quantity. The Examiner's statement that a portion of the picture of an animal (shown as numeral 11) is the same as the indication of location 26 in the present invention is incorrect. The picture of the animal 11 disclosed in Brown does not act as an indicator of location, but instead is used to create a complete picture when all of the remaining cards are collected.

Further, Brown does not disclose playing cards that, when placed in combination with another card, creates a combination that is similar in design to a standard playing card; instead the combination of four cards creates a picture of an animal. Brown also does not disclose combining cards that have the same quantity, but different suit — as the present invention claims.

The present invention is a method of game play using a deck of playing cards made up of 104 cards, divided into four different suit types, containing 26 cards in each suit numbered either 2 through 10, or containing the letters A, K, Q, or J. In order to account for the 26 different cards in each suit, the deck contains two of each card (both cards containing the same number or quantity, and same suit). Because these two cards are similar, each of the cards contains an indication of location. Thus, the similar cards can be distinguished by their different indications of location, i.e., one for the top card portion and one for the bottom card portion. None of the prior art discloses a similar set of cards. The top and bottom card portions are configured such that, when the corresponding top and bottom cards are placed adjacent to each other, a single card is created similar in design to those playing cards found in a standard deck of cards, however the newly created card is approximately twice the size of the standard card.

Claim 20 has been amended to recite a method of game play in which different values are given depending on which playing cards are combined, and that the combination of the two cards creates a new card that is similar in design to a standard playing card. If playing cards containing the same quantity and suit are combined, the value is higher than if playing cards are combined that only contain the same quantity (and different suits).

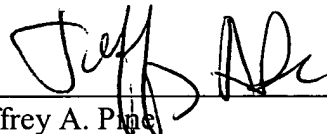
None of the art cited by the Examiner discloses, teaches or suggests the method of game play as disclosed in the present invention. Further, none of the prior art contains playing cards that when combined result in a card similar in design to a standard playing card

as disclosed in the present invention. As described above, Brown has a quarter-picture of an animal, not an indication of location. Further, Brown does not disclose two playing cards that, when placed together, create a combination that is similar in design to a standard playing card. Thus, pending Claims 20 and 22-29 are neither anticipated nor made obvious by any of the cited art either alone or in combination with other art, and are in condition for allowance.

Applicants have previously canceled Claims 1-19 without prejudice. Applicants cancel Claim 21 without prejudice herein. Applicants have also amended Claims 20, 22-24 and 27, and traversed all of the Examiner's rejections and objections. Applicants' amendments further clarify the present invention. Applicant respectfully requests a notice of allowance pertaining to the remaining claims (20, and 22-29).

If, for any reason, the Examiner is unable to allow the Application and feels that a telephone conference would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at (312) 673-0360.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Pine", is written over a horizontal line.

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